



*Michigan's Oral Health Authority Dedicated to the Public and the Profession*

April 26, 2011

Dear Members of the Senate Health Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Michigan Dental Association (MDA), which represents more than 6000 dentists across the state, I want to thank you for taking up three bills that are very important to dentists in Michigan. These bills are Senate Bill 213, sponsored by Sen. Tom Casperson; House Bill 4192, sponsored by Rep. Paul Scott; and House Bill 4389, sponsored by Rep. Jim Stamas.

Senate Bill 213 would correct an error in the law that does not allow in state pharmacies to fill prescriptions written by out of state dentists. In 2009 a law was passed that allows for out of state physicians to write prescriptions that can be filled by in state pharmacies. However, due to a wording error dentists were excluded.

Due to the remoteness of the Wisconsin/UP border, many people have to go to Wisconsin to see dental specialists, such as oral surgeons, for treatment. These residents, however, cannot get their prescriptions filled at a Michigan pharmacy after treatment. This bill merely adds language to existing law to make it clear that in state pharmacies can fill prescriptions written by out of state dentists. The MDA is not aware of any opposition to this bill.

House Bill 4192 (which passed the House 107 – 1) would allow prescribers to have access to their prescription writing histories through the Michigan Automated Prescription System (MAPS). Under current law this is not allowed.

This bill would allow prescribers to catch problems sooner rather than later, thus helping to stop some fraudulent prescription writing activity. The MDA is not aware of any opposition to this bill.

House Bill 4389 (which passed the House 91 – 17) would extend civil immunity to retired dentists and podiatrists providing services to the indigent under a special volunteer license. This immunity is currently only available to retired physicians providing services under a special volunteer license. In addition, the immunity would not apply in cases of gross negligence.

Making sure all Michigan residents have access to care is important to the MDA, and this bill would help bring retired dentists back into service to help treat the underserved. The MDA is not aware of any opposition to this bill.

All three of these bills would help solve problems that currently affect Michigan residents and dentists. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 517-346-9405. Again, thank you for considering these bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Sullivan".

William Sullivan

Director of Legislative and Insurance Affairs

Cc: Peter Ruddell, Wiener Associates